

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method ~~of screening for identifying~~ compounds for treating obesity with an assay to identify ~~comprising identifying~~ inhibitors or regulators of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity, ~~wherein the~~ using an assay is selected from the following group ~~[[:]]~~ consisting of an in vitro binding assay, a cell based transactivation assay, an adipocyte differentiation assay and an in vivo obese animal model assay.

Claim 10 (original): A method for treating osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising administering to a host in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutical composition that inhibits PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 10, wherein said animal is a human.

Claim 12 (original): A method for treating osteoarthritis in a mammal comprising administering to a host in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutical composition that modulates PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity.

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 12, wherein said animal is a human.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of claims 3, 7 or~~ claim 12, wherein PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity modulation is effected by regulating any one of the following: expression of the PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) gene, PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) protein activity, and transactivation of PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) target gene expression.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of obesity, ~~and insulin resistance~~ or diabetes comprising ~~[[:]]~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which inhibits ~~or modulates~~ PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (new): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of obesity and insulin resistance comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which inhibits PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity and an antidiabetic agent.

Claim 19 (new): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of obesity and dyslipidemia comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that inhibits PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ) activity and a lipid lowering agent.

Claim 20 (new): A method for identifying compounds for treating obesity comprising the step of determining whether the compound inhibits PPAR $\delta$ ( $\beta$ ).